Preface

Mutsuo Oka · Nguyen Viet Dung

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This special issue contains some selected papers presented at the Workshop “*Topology of Singularities and Related Topics, III*” which was held in Dalat, Vietnam from March 26 to March 30, 2012.

This conference is the third in a series of conferences of the same name “*Topology of Singularities and Related Topics*.” The first was held in Hanoi, Vietnam between March 22 and 26, 2010 and was followed by the second workshop held in Sendai, Japan between January 5 and 9, 2011.

All the workshops were supported by the JSPS–VAST Japan–Vietnam Bilateral Joint Projects on *Geometry for Singularities from the Viewpoint of Fundamental Groups* during the period 2010–2012, where the three conferences played the main role.

This proceeding summarizes 3 years of cooperation. It consists of ten peer-reviewed papers covering various branches of singularity theory and its applications such as contact structure (M. Oka and M. Ishikawa), log mixed Hodge theory (S. Usui), Jacobian conjecture (Nguyen Van Chau), geometry and invariants of low-dimensional manifold (Vu The Khoi and M. Mase), moduli spaces of finite Galois coverings (M. Namba) and geometry of arrangements (Nguyen Viet Dung, Tran Quoc Cong, M. Yoshinaga and T. Ishibe).

This project has enhanced the traditional cooperation between Vietnam and Japan in the field of Singularity Theory. This is an area where we see the interaction of many branches of mathematics like geometry, topology, complex analysis, combinatorics, etc. and we expect to see further development in these fields through our cooperation.

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M. Oka

Department of Mathematics, Tokyo University of Science, 1-3 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 162-8601, Japan
e-mail: oka@rs.kagu.tus.ac.jp

N. V. Dung (✉)

Institute of Mathematics, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, 18 Hoang Quoc Viet,
Cau Giay, 10037 Hanoi, Vietnam
e-mail: vietdung@math.ac.vn

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We would like to thank Vu The Khoi and Masaharu Ishikawa for their dedicated work during the last 3 years to make the workshops possible. We also wish to thank all the participants of the conference for making this conference a great success.

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Guest editors